



09/12/2000 04:03:33 PM

To: Edward\_K\_Thompson@cs.doi.gov, Karen\_Sprocher\_Keating@ios.doi.gov  
cc:

Subject: (no subject)

To Whom It May Concern:

I OPPOSE H.R. -4904 and S.2899 very strongly.

Although not one of your constituents, I am a resident of the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i, and will be affected by this bill. Therefore, please take time to consider my opposition to this bill. I have doubts that you will receive an accurate presentation from Rep. Abercrombie or the senators from Hawai'i.

You will probably not be told that this bill is not supported by the Native Hawaiian people, or a great many people in Hawai'i as a whole. Testimony at hearings held in Honolulu, August 28 through September 1 was strongly against the bill (9 to 1 against, by some accounts). Most of the few who supported the bill were Hawaiians employed by state or federal agencies, not representative of the common opinion. Those who will testify before your committee may be the same hand picked supporters of the bill.

It is not proper for the federal government to attempt to determine the process, time line, or outcome for Hawaiian sovereignty or self-determination. It is inappropriate for a form of recognition or structure to be imposed by the federal government, having had a century of abuse against the Native Hawaiian people.

The bill is not consistent with, and not appropriate for Hawai'i's history. Hawai'i's history is very unique and different from that of Native Americans. The Kingdom of Hawai'i was an internationally recognized, neutral country. The United States did, indeed, have several treaties of "perpetual peace and amity" with the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom. The citizens of the Kingdom were of many races, not just Native Hawaiian.

- Hawaiian sovereignty is an issue of nationality, not race.
- Hawaiian sovereignty is an issue of an occupied country, not an indigenous tribe.
- Hawaiian sovereignty is an issue of international law, not federal/Indian law.
- Hawaiian sovereignty is an issue for the State Department, not the Departments of Interior or Justice.

If the blatant destruction of so much of Hawai'i's beauty and life-giving resources to date, is any indication of what will further be done, again in the name of the almighty dollar, with the continued

presence of the United States' authority, I say "shame on all" who would do this to such pristine beauty and way of life. Greed is, indeed, an ugly thing. The above bill will only perpetuate more of the same.

Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline Remington  
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